

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02315 070620Z
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /014 W
-----081742 070621Z /17
P R 070540Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7617
USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, CE

SUBJ: LONG ISLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA

REF: ATHENS 6212 (USIAC)

1. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EITHER DREIWITZ, LIYO, USIA OR PERHAPS DEPARTMENT REALIZE WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST IN CONNECTION WITH LIYO SRI LANKA VISIT JULY 17 TO 23. FIRST, TO REVIEW BIDDING, I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A PRIVATE, NON-USG SPONSORED VENTURE, FOR WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE, WHICH USIS COLOMBO HAS MORE THAN CHEERFULLY DONE TO BEST OF ITS ABILITY. SECOND, I REALIZE THE DATES OF THE VISIT HERE 943 35 .9,5# -&9 285#975 43&-4\$ 59 09 8?8)856 - &3,34-) 3)3:589, 297)\$)-534 ?3 :-))3\$ \$748,& 5#8 03489\$, AND THAT TRAVEL PLANS FOR A GROUP OF THIS SIZE (90 STRONG) AND THEIR INSTRUMENTS ARE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX. THIRD, I NBELIEVE I U YDERSTAND FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS CONSTRAINING THE POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATE PLANNING. I HOPE I AM MAKING ALLOWANCES FOR ALL OF THESE FACTORS.

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2. FROM OUR SIDE, THESE FACTORS ARE RELEVANT: THE ELECTION IS TO BE HELD JULY 21. PAST ELECTORAL HISTORY THROUGH SEVEN ELECTIONS INDICATES POSSIBILITY, RANGING TO A CERTAINTY, OF VIOLENCE IN COLOMBO AND OTHER TOWN AND VILLAGE AREAS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND DURING THE PERIOD OF TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER ELECTION NIGHT. DURING CAMPAIGN WE HAVE HELD OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO SRI LANKA TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM AND HAVE ORDERED ALL OUR OFFICIAL

AMERICANS NOT TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF COLOMBO UNTIL POST-ELECTION
SCENE HAS QUIETED DOWN.

3. USIS COLOMBO HAS SECURED ACCOMMODATIONS IN AND SCHEDULED
CONCERTS AT HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL JULY 18 AND 19. WE ARE
AT A LOSS WHAT TO DO WITH THIS 90-STRONG GROUP FOR JULY 20
TO 23. TRAVEL TO AND ACCOMMODATION IN KANDY IS ABSOLUTELY
OUT. POSSIBILITY OF ANY MORE CONCERTS ANYWHERE BEFORE JULY
23 DEPARTURE IS NIL. PROBLEM BOILS DOWN TO WHERE WE CAN
BED THE GROUP DOWN AS SAFELY AND INCONSPICUOUSLY AS POSSIBLE
UNTIL THEY ARE ABLE TO CATCH ONWARD TRANSPORTATION. REFTEL
SAYS ORCHESTRA UNABLE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL EXPENSES. WE HAVE
NO FUNDS OR FACILITIES TO HOUSE THEM EITHER. MY OWN PRE-
FERENCE WOULD BE TO LODGE THEM IN A BEACH RESORT HOTEL SOME-
WHERE ON COAST WITHIN 30-40 MILES OF COLOMBO FOR, IN EFFECT,
AN ENFORCED VACATION. IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS,
PLEASE ADVISE QUICKLY AND WE WILL TRY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS,
EVEN IF IT MEANS SPLITTING GROUP.

4. MY STRONG PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR CANCELLATION OF LIYO
VISIT TO SRI LANKA. I DO NOT RELISH POSSIBILITY OS SOME IN-
CIDENT OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE TO GROUP MEMBERS AS A RESULT OF
INNOCENT INVOLVEMENT WITH POST-ELECTION SCORE SETTLERS. IF
DEPT/USIA HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, I WOULD WELCOME THEM.
PERKINS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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